view of the general ban on creation/ filling up of posts. This position holds good for Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh as well as other States/ Union Territories.

Accident of Rock Fort Express due to bomb explosion

*32. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRI J.P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 22 passengers were killed and 64 injured when eight bogies of the Madras-Tiruchirapalli Rock Fort Express fell into the Maruthaiyaru river between Ariyalur and Sillakkudi, following a time bomb explosion on the Marudayar railway bridge in March 1987;

(b) if so, whether any arrests have been made in connection therewith; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government to avoid such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) In this accident 26 persons lost their lives and 55 sustained serious injuries.

(b) According to information received from Tamil Nadu Government, one person has been arrested.

(c) Track patrolling and guarding of vulnerable bridges on certain sections is being done. However, law and order is a State subject.

Training of Villagers in Avurvedic and Unani System of Medicines in the Tribal Areas

*33. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up institutions which can introduce the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicines in tribal areas and tarin villagers in Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine to enable them to produce medicines by using herbal plants and vegetation locally available to provide cheap treatment to ppor tribals; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what steps are being taken by Government to provide medical assistance to poor tribals and villagers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) The tribal areas are rich in herbs and have an ancient folk tradition to use these herbs to treat many diverse ailments. We are concerned and committed to preserve this tradition and exploit this folk knowledge for the benefit of all. To this end, the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha is engaged in collecting folk remedies of animal and plant origin practiced in some of the tribal areas. However, the Government do not feel the need to set up separate institutions to introduce Ayurveda and Unani system of medicines specifically in these areas.

(b) Medical facilities are being provided in rural backward and tribal areas of the country by establishing primary Health Centres, sub-Centres etc. Efforts are being made to establish a Primary Health Centre and a Sub-Centre to cover a population of 20,000 and 3000 respectively in tribal/hilly areas instead of 30,000 and 5000 respectively in the non-tribal/non-hilly areas.

Chemical Testing Laboratories Lacking Sophisticated Equipment

*34. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that chemical testing laboratories attached to medical stores and depots of Governmeant are not sphisticated enough and well equipped;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to improve the testing factilities for medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) The Chemical testing laboratories attached to the Medical Store Depots are equipped to carry out simple testing of drugs. The laboratories, however, do not have sophisticated equipments like Infrared Spectrophotometer and gas liquid Chromatograph.

(b) and (c) During the 7th Plan, a plan scheme for the medical stores organisation as a whole has been approved, which includes a scheme for development of the testing laboratories.

Strike call by the D.T.C. Employees

*35. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Miniter of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Transport Corporation employees have decided to go on strike to press their demands for implementation of the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to settle the disputes with the employees of the DTC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No notice of strike has been received by DTC, although some reports have appeared in the press in this regard.

(b) Revision in the pay scales of Public Sector Undertakings having Central Pay pattern stands referred to the High Power Pay Committee set up by the Government under the directions of the Supreme Court.

Recently two unions of DTC employees have also filed writ petitions before the Supreme Court for implementtion of the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission to the D.T.C. employees.

Regulation for the Sale of the Ayurvedic Medicines and Tonics

*36. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any rules regulating the sale of Ayurvedic medicines and tonics;

(b) if so, whether these rules are being enforced effectively; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) (a) to (c) Under the existing provision of Drugs & Cosmetic Act, 1940, there is no provision for sale licence for Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani drugs. Anyone can sell these drugs if manufactured by a Pharmaceutical concern licensed for the purpose.

Cancer Treatment with Hyperthermia

*37. SHRI K. GOPALAN:
SHRI V. GOPALASAMY:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to make Hyperthermia a new treatment for cancer, available in the Government hospitals in India; and

(b) if so, how many patients can get the benefit annually with the facilities so far provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) The technique and the efficacy of Hyperthermia for treatment of cancer are under investigation at pesent